

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 154273
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DOHA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, BTRA, QA

SUBJECT: U.S. FIRM'S PROBLEMS WITH QATARI VISAS

REFERENCES: (A) STATE 140588, (B) STATE 129182

1. KEN RUSSELL, VP OF NELLO J. TEER, WHICH IS BUILDING HOTEL IN DOHA, HAS CALLED DEPARTMENT SEVERAL TIMES THIS WEEK RELATING PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING QATARI VISAS. EMBASSY WILL RECALL (REFTELS) THAT TEER WAS SUCCESSFUL IN ITS FIRST ATTEMPT TO GET THREE-MONTH VISAS. HOWEVER, IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH QATARI EMBASSY, COMPANY WAS TOLD THAT ONLY THREE-DAY VISAS COULD BE ISSUED. QATARI CHARGE HAS INDICATED HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE SEVEN-DAY VISAS BUT NOTHING BETTER. TEER NEEDS TO HAVE ITS WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY FOR MINIMUM OF THREE MONTHS AT A TIME. WITHOUT THREE-MONTH VISAS, COMPANY HAS TO FLY ITS EMPLOYEES OUT OF DOHA AND OBTAIN NEW ENTRY VISAS IN BAHRAIN, AN EXPENSIVE PROCESS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 154273

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SUGGESTED TO RUSSELL THAT HIS COMPANY'S DOHA REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD PREVAIL ON COMPANY'S QATARI AGENT TO INTERVENE WITH DOHA FOREIGN MINISTRY ON COMPANY'S BEHALF. QATARI CHARGE IN WASHINGTON TOLD NEA/ARP OFFICER THAT ANOTHER U.S. FIRM IN DOHA, WILLIAM PEREIRA,

HAD SOLVED ITS VISA AND ENTRY PROBLEMS THROUGH ITS AGENT.

3. RUSSELL SAID ADDITIONAL PROBLEM HAD CROPPED UP RECENTLY WHEN LOCAL REPS CALLED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY BECAUSE QATARI VISA OFFICE IS APPARENTLY CLOSED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS FOR "TESTING AND TRAINING."

4. QATARI EMBASSY HERE SEEMS WILLING TO ISSUE 30 OR 90-DAY VISAS BUT NOT WITHOUT SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM DOHA. TWO WEEKS BEFORE TEER'S LATEST UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT, QATARI CHARGE ISSUED ONE-MONTH 30-DAY VISAS TO AMCIT EMPLOYEES OF MIDREX.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMBASSY CONTACT APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL OF QATARI IMMIGRATION OFFICE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY AND INQUIRE IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR TEER TO OBTAIN 90-DAY VISAS IN WASHINGTON. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S

COMMENTS ON HOW TEER AND OTHER U.S. FIRMS SHOULD HANDLE VISA APPLICATION PROBLEM
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